WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Expansion of runway at Mangalore airport

234. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion of runway of Bajpe airport at Mangalore has been taken up;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the work;

(c) by when it will be completed; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to operate international flights once the runway and expansion works are completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A new runway of 8050 feet length is under construction at Bajpe airport in Mangalore. Besides, expansion of existing apron to accomodate four aircraft at a time has also been undertaken. Work was awarded in April, 2004. The expected project completion date is December, 2005.

(d) Airlines take decision on starting international operations subject to commercial viability and availability of aircraft capacity.

Review of open sky policy

235. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the open sky policy, especially the provisions relating to bilateral landing rights being granted to various foreign airlines; and

(b) if so, the results thereof and the fresh guidelines proposed, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No open sky policy for operation of international air services has been adopted by the Government. However recently there has been liberalization in our air services arrangements with Sri Lanka and ASEAN-countries subject to

reciprocal rights to the Indian carriers. Besides it has also been decided to permit all countries having Air Services Agreements with India to operate up to 7 flights each to any two international airports provided reciprocal enhancement in capacity is granted to Indian carriers. Actual operations, however, are matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

Financial performance of IA

236. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has incurred a loss of Rs. 93 crores in the first six months of this financial year;

(b) if so, whether the loss is expected to increase in the second half of this year;

(c) what are the reasons for the high losses of Indian Airlines this year;

(d) whether Indian Airlines is taking any steps to reduce its losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the provisional data compiled for the first two months of current financial year 2004-05 *i.e.* April, 2004 & May, 2004, Indian Airlines has earned a net profit of Rs. 5.10 crores.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Babatpur airport

†237. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme to beautify and provide afforestation at Babatpur airport in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have been provided for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.